

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as set forth below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lead frame comprising:
a plurality of discretely defined leads, including at least one discretely defined lead having:
a first bonding region,
a second bonding region, and
a severance region located between the first bonding region and the second bonding region, the severance region being configured to facilitate separation of the first bonding region from the second bonding region.
2. (Original) The lead frame of claim 1, wherein the severance region includes a notch in the at least one lead.
3. (Currently Amended) The lead frame of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of discretely defined leads includes a first bonding region, a second bonding region, and a severance region configured to facilitate separation of the first and second bonding regions.
4. (Original) The lead frame of claim 3, wherein each severance region includes a notch.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A lead frame strip, comprising:
a plurality of longitudinally arranged lead frames, each lead frame including an outer frame portion bearing a plurality of inwardly extending, cantilevered leads, each lead of the plurality having thereon at least two longitudinally spaced locations separated by a severance region comprising a notch extending laterally across each lead.

7. (Original) The lead frame strip of claim 6, wherein each outer frame portion further bears a die paddle substantially centered therein.

8. (Original) The lead frame strip of claim 6, wherein the plurality of inwardly extending, cantilevered leads is located on a plurality of sides of each outer frame portion.

9. (Original) The lead frame strip of claim 6, wherein the plurality of inwardly extending, cantilevered leads is located on four sides of each outer frame portion.

Please enter new claims 10 through 17 as set forth below.

10. (New) The lead frame of claim 1, further comprising a die paddle.

11. (New) The lead frame of claim 11, wherein the plurality of discretely defined leads are disposed about a peripheral outline of the die paddle.

12. (New) The lead frame of claim 12, wherein the plurality peripheral outline comprises a plurality of peripheral edges.

13. (New) The lead frame of claim 1, further comprising an outer frame portion wherein the plurality of discretely defined leads are cantilevered and extend inwardly from the outer frame portion.

14. (New) The lead frame of claim 13, further comprising a die paddle and at least one tie bar coupling the die paddle and the outer frame portion.

15. (New) The lead frame strip of claim 6, wherein each of the at least two longitudinally spaced locations of each lead is configured as a bonding region.

16. (New) The lead frame of claim 7, wherein the plurality of inwardly extending, cantilevered leads are disposed about a peripheral outline of the die paddle.

17. (New) The lead frame of claim 7, wherein each lead frame further includes at least one tie bar coupling the die paddle and the outer frame portion.